

Berlin

Office Memorandum

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Executive Office of the Pres.Bureau of the Budget
DATE: September 26, 1961

TO : The Director

FROM : International Division (Ecker)

NSI 36 CFR 1256.46 CIA

SUBJECT: Covert action program in Berlin

A CIA request for [redacted] a special covert action program to support the U.S. position in Berlin has now been the subject of two discussions with CIA staff and one discussion with Tom Parrott of General Taylor's staff. Our second conversation with CIA personnel was chaired by Mr. Staats with Mr. Hansen in attendance. In addition Mr. Bundy has indicated that this program has had full Berlin Task Force discussion and that he would favor approval, but with a strong caveat that the West Germans undertake as much of this effort as possible on their own behalf.

Mr. Staats has suggested that you may now wish to talk with General Taylor about this program along the following lines:

1. That part of the effort which is targeted at the West German/West Berlin population should be made the full responsibility of the West German Government. We believe that the West German Government can well afford to conduct these activities among its own population, and we cannot in good conscience justify the apportionment of U.S. funds to conduct them. [redacted]

2. That CIA be asked to absorb those items which are of a recurring nature. [redacted]

[redacted] Unless this occurs the result will be to expand the program base and make more difficult subsequent control of total Agency efforts. This phenomenon, as you know, has been one of the most persistent problems confronting the Bureau in its attempts to control the magnitude of CIA activities.

We continue to be somewhat doubtful regarding the merit of some other elements of this program but how to the judgment of the Special Group. [redacted]

[redacted]

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